

COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES

COMMITTEE: LAW ENFORCEMENT/ EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: August 24, 2012

Meeting called to order by Paul Babcock at 8:30 a.m. Members of the committee present were: Paul Babcock, Pam Rogers, Dwayne Morris, Ed Morse, (George Jaeckel was on jury duty and did appear toward the end of the meeting)

Others present were: Sheriff Milbrath, Chief Deputy Parker, Captain Scott, Donna Haugom, John Molinaro

Absent: George Jaeckel was absent for most of the meeting

Compliance with open meetings law: Chief Deputy Parker assured compliance.

Approve agenda: The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of minutes: A motion was made by Pam Rogers and seconded by Dwayne Morris that the July 27, 2012 minutes be approved as printed. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Communications: None

Emergency Management Vehicle: Donna Haugom handed out information and quotes for the Tahoe, the Equinox and the Traverse for comparisons in regard to the discussion the committee had in July referencing a new vehicle for the Emergency Management department. The van that she currently drives and has had for about 4 years is deteriorating and is becoming unsafe. The Tahoe would be the vehicle she is requesting due to its higher clearance (9.1 inches vs. 7.8-Equinox and 7.2-Traverse) plus the increased amount of storage space in the Tahoe compared to the other two vehicles. In addition, the Tahoe is the vehicle that the Sheriff's Office is transitioning to and the mechanic would have parts readily available and would be familiar with the vehicle to work on it. All of the vehicles will be either 4-wheel (Tahoe) or all-wheel drive (Equinox and Traverse). Another benefit with the Tahoe is that it could be converted to LP so that considerable savings could be seen regarding fuel purchases as well. A new vehicle should last at least 10 years. Currently there is a propane system for the Tahoe which costs in the neighborhood of about \$6,000. At this time there are no systems for the other two vehicles. The price of a gallon of propane was about \$1.15 when last purchased by the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office also currently receives a 50¢ rebate on propane but no one is sure how long that program will continue.

The committee discussed each of the vehicles and whether they wanted to recommend one over the others or just send a recommendation for one of the vehicles to the Finance Committee without including the others. It was also determined that fuel comparisons should be done to see how much savings would be gained if the vehicle was put on propane.

Pam Rogers made a motion to recommend the purchase of a vehicle for EM and send information on all the vehicles to the Finance Committee for their review with a preference by the members of the Law Enforcement and Emergency Management Committee for the Tahoe (with propane) as the vehicle of choice. Dwayne Morris seconded the motion and it carried.

Plan of Work – Emergency Management: Donna said that at the last meeting they talked about her plan of work and the Emergency Management support functions and that it should be approved by the county board. They also discussed the complexity of the support functions and how the information should be provided to the county board members without overwhelming them. She brought documentation of her Basic Plan which is 43 pages long. Donna said she could add a couple pages outlining all the support functions with a brief explanation of what each of them is. The committee members said they were sure the county board supervisors would not read the entire plan and suggested that she put together an executive summary of the basic plan as well as a copy of the plan. County board members will then have the opportunity to look at the basic plan if they have any questions regarding the summary.

Discuss Mental Health: Sheriff Milbrath talked about the intern program with U.W. Whitewater. The program was set up a number of years ago using graduate students who need to put some hours into interning. It has provided some assistance to the current social worker when her hours were cut. It also has allowed the jail to provide some programs that wouldn't have been possible with just the part-time social worker. Having these resources (the social worker and interns) available has resulted in considerable savings by not having to take inmates to mental health facilities which are very expensive. Many times inmates' issues/concerns can be taken care of in the jail setting. Mr. Molinaro talked about an ICC committee session on jails that he attended a couple months previously (Captain Haferman participated in this session). The issue of mental health is common throughout all the jails in the state. If the programs addressing mental health could be increased across the board, it would have a direct relationship with subjects not returning to the jail setting. Unfortunately, counties have levy caps and there generally is no funding to increase this service. Sheriff Milbrath indicated that the mental health programs in jails deal more with family issues, alcohol related issues, financial issues, anxiety, etc. and the needs of the inmate in those areas. Some interns may be able to do actual counseling sessions but they must be overseen by someone with a PhD or Masters level with many hours of actual practice. Chief Deputy Parker talked about NAMI (National Alliance of Mental Illness) and the Crisis Intervention training session which puts the deputies in actual situations as well as classroom training.

Grants – Status of ongoing or new grants: Sheriff Milbrath said the propane grant for the 2012 Tahoes has finally been approved. Included in the grant amount are the five propane systems for the Tahoes that were brought into the fleet this year and funding to repaint the big propane tank out at the Highway Shop. It's not a common practice in the state; however, more agencies have been asking about propane systems lately. Systems for natural gas are also becoming more popular.

The Sheriff's Office also received a \$500 donation from Keystone Foods which will be used for a digital camera lens for the detective division.

Report from the Sheriff: The jail kitchen has been getting a lot of food donations, especially fruit, vegetables, and cheese. The Sheriff was appreciative of the county board for letting him present plaques to a couple of the contributors in July to thank them for their considerable donations. Complaints regarding the food in the jail are relatively nonexistent, even with the special diets that some of the inmates have.

The Sheriff's Office is moving forward with accrediting the health care in the jail. It costs between \$3,000 and \$5,000 to do this but the benefits are that the health care is verified so the public knows it is run the way it should and accreditation also offers protection for lawsuits. The cost can be taken from jail assessment funds.

Replacing the night light portion of the jail lighting with LEDs is one of the projects they are looking at right now. They also are trying to find a grant that would help pay for this project. LEDs are extremely efficient and the savings in one year would pay for most, if not all, the cost of replacing the fixtures.

Review monthly bills and financial items: – The committee approved the monthly recap report for June bills in the amount of \$104,130.74. July bills totaled \$314,352.17. A spreadsheet summarizing current bills was reviewed by the committee members. Chief Deputy Parker explained the large dollar amount of bills this month which includes \$126,000 going to Gen Comm for the second payment in regard to the large communications project that was budgeted last year. Another larger amount was \$45,000 to Coban for the squad video systems. A few other purchased items were mentioned (load of propane, propane systems for the Tahoes-which will be covered by the grant now, snow tires, and repair of the lift in the mechanics garage) as well. He went on to go over how the Sheriff's Office is doing regarding their budget numbers to date. Workmen's Comp issues have been driving an increase in overtime, plus the Sheriff's Office has been running short staffed for several years, which is causing those areas to be over budget. The Sheriff's Office is in the process of hiring a few deputies but that won't be complete until around October.

Review monthly jail and patrol activity reports: Jail and patrol activity reports were reviewed.

Jail assessment fund items: General fund items for the month totaling \$3,907.61. The balance in the jail assessment fund is \$337,128.00. So far, \$43,535 has been pulled from the fund for miscellaneous expenses, such as inmate medical costs, educational fees for the inmates, maintenance for the jail, etc.

Next meeting date is TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2012.

Agenda items: Discuss the committee's process for reviewing bills.
Discuss how the committee is briefed on discipline issues.

A motion made by Pam Rogers to adjourn at 9:37 a.m., was seconded by Ed Morse. Motion carried.

Motions Carried: 3 Lost: 0 .

Signed _____